02-230

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Andrew G. Brown
6217 25th Avenue
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Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D C 20554

Dear Commissioner Michael J. Copps

Thousands of American consumers have already expressed their opposition to the FCC's adoption of a "broadcast flag" I am writing to join them. As a user of open—source software, adoption of the broadcast flag will mean I am unable to receive digital television broadcasts on my computer

Adopting the broadcast flag will make the FCC stand for "Federal Computer Control" which is outside its proper role It is not the FCC's place to effectively choose the software licenses or computer operating systems that consumers must use in order to watch digital television broadcast on their computers.

Additionally, adoption of the broadcast flag will harm innovation Many users of open—source software are computer programmers and "tinkerers" who work to improve the software. Their contributions and constant innovation is what makes open—source software able to compete in the marketplace

The broadcast flag rule advocated by the MPAA will ban open—source implementations of VSB and QAM modulators and demodulators, preventing open—source programmers from innovating in field of digital communications techniques used by television

Most Americans assumed that when television became digital, viewers would be able to do more with television programming, not less. Without innovative new products and flexibility in the ways consumers are able to watch TV, consumers will be less inclined to invest in the equipment to view digital television. Therefore, the broadcast flag is likely to slow adoption of digital television in addition to making it illegal to watch digital television on a computer using open—source software. It is for these reasons I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Andrew G. Brown

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